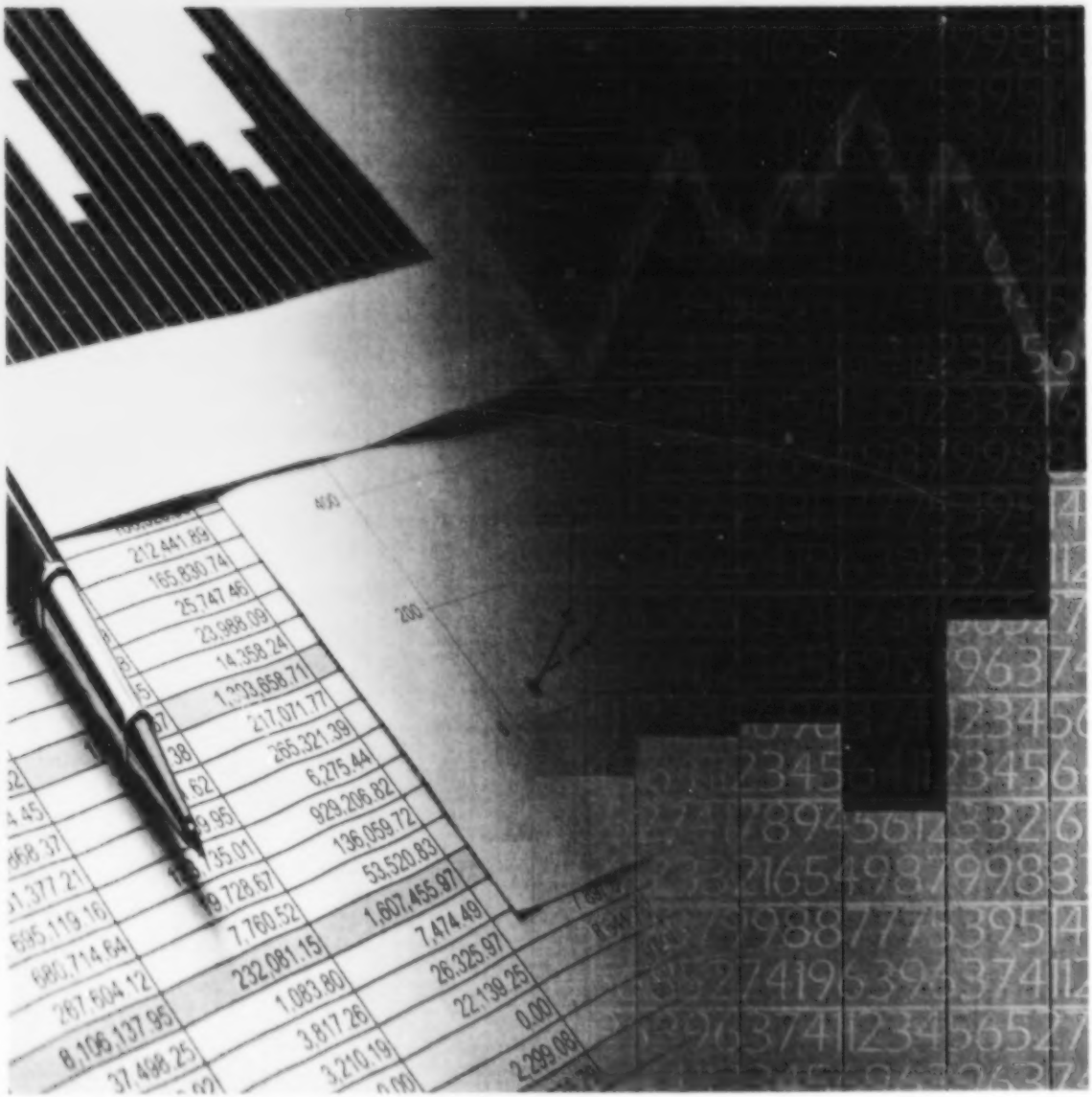
Statistics Canada
Performance Report

For the period ending March 31, 2009



Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

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Minister's Message

The past year has been a challenging one for the Canadian economy, as it has been for the economies of all industrialized countries. The global economic crisis put the fiscal and economic frameworks of all countries to the test. But Canada entered the recession with solid fundamentals — balanced budgets, decreasing debt and taxes, a strong financial sector and robust economic policies. Consequently, Canada is in a comparatively good position to effectively respond to this time of economic challenge.

The Industry Portfolio played a significant role in developing Canada's resiliency and ability to weather the current crisis. Composed of 11 departments, agencies, Crown corporations and quasi-judicial bodies, the Portfolio includes major instruments in the Government of Canada's tool kit for building a competitive economy.

In 2008–09, such measures included continued availability of Statistics Canada's data and analysis to meet the statistical needs of federal, provincial and territorial governments, businesses, unions and not-for-profit organizations during the fiscal year.

In January 2009, the government introduced Canada's Economic Action Plan, which contained stimulative measures to respond to the global recession. Industry Portfolio members played, and will continue to play, a central role in developing and implementing a significant number of these critical initiatives. These measures range from programs to upgrade research infrastructure at Canada's universities and colleges, to helping small businesses bring innovative products to market, to supporting major tourism events, to enhancing community and recreational facilities and other municipal infrastructure in Ontario. For more information, visit the Canada's Economic Action Plan website.

As a country, we are emerging from the recession by creating a climate that encourages innovation, productivity and competitiveness — helping Canadian industry move to the forefront of the global knowledge economy. The Industry Portfolio members, and other federal departments and agencies are working in partnership so that Canada continues to enjoy a high standard of living and a prosperous future.

It is my pleasure to present Statistics Canada's Departmental Performance Report for 2008–09.

The original version was signed by
Tony Clement
Minister of Industry

Chief Statistician's Message

I am pleased to present Statistics Canada's Departmental Performance Report.

As Chief Statistician of Canada, my goal is to ensure that Canadians continue to have access to a trusted source of statistics about their country. Relevant statistics, that is, statistics that are consistent with what Canadians most need, and statistics of high quality, are ever more important to our society. They are a key component in the effective governance of the country.

I am happy to report that this has been a very successful year for Statistics Canada:

- Canadians' access to Statistics Canada's data has increased considerably. Particularly notable was the substantial increase in website visits over the past year.

- Information produced by Statistics Canada remains relevant and widely used. The extensive coverage our data received in Canadian and international news media is one example of this. Another is the number of studies of the major economic, social and environmental issues facing Canadians that were based on Statistics Canada data.

- The quality of statistical outputs has been maintained as demonstrated by a variety of quality measures that Statistics Canada produces.

- Canadians should take satisfaction with the fact that the organization is well-managed. The Treasury Board has ranked Statistics Canada among the top-performing federal departments.

However, I am ever mindful that we face many challenges. The reality in the world of statistics is that both relevance and quality deteriorate over time automatically unless proactive steps are taken to reverse these natural outcomes. Relevance falls as the country evolves. Births, deaths, mergers and acquisitions of businesses change the face of our economy. Our society and communities evolve through mobility, immigration and education. Environmental issues are increasingly front-of-mind for Canadians and their institutions. Quality also falls over time. For example, increasing use of cell phones and households that are frequently absent from their homes are making it ever more difficult to conduct our surveys, while the Internet provides a new opportunity for connecting with Canadians.

Statistics Canada is committed to remain vigilant in dealing with these challenges. It is committed to maintaining an efficient, world class statistical system. I invite readers to benefit from the work of their national statistical agency by visiting our website at www.statcan.gc.ca.

The original version was signed by
Munir A. Sheikh
Chief Statistician of Canada

1.1 Summary Information

Raison d'être

The Government of Canada established Statistics Canada to ensure that Canadians have **access** to a **trusted** source of statistics on Canadian society and its economy. Access to trusted information is fundamental in an open, democratic society to support decision making by people and their elected representatives.

The statistics produced by Statistics Canada inform national policy and support evidence-based program management. A large portion of Statistics Canada's activities is devoted to meeting the needs of federal, provincial and territorial government policy departments and providing ongoing measurement of Canadian socio-economic dynamics and emerging trends.

Mandate

Statistics Canada's mandate derives primarily from the *Statistics Act* of 1970. The Act requires that it collect, compile, analyse and publish statistical information on the economic, social and general conditions of the country and its people. This mandate covers a broad range of statutory requirements and instruments, as well as contractual obligations, for which Statistics Canada must produce information.

The *Statistics Act* requires Statistics Canada to conduct a Census of Population and a Census of Agriculture every fifth year. The Act also confers substantial powers on the department to request information for statistical purposes through surveys of businesses and households.

Statistics Canada is also mandated to provide co-ordination and leadership for the national statistical system, specifically to avoid duplication in the information collected by government. Statistics Canada can also, by law, access all administrative records (e.g., tax data, customs declarations, and birth and death records), enabling it to reduce reporting burden on business and individual respondents, and to reduce duplicating data collection efforts across government. Statistics Canada is considered a leader among statistical agencies in reducing reporting burden through the use of administrative data. Partnerships and cost-recovery arrangements with other federal departments, other jurisdictions and external organizations play a large role in reducing reporting burden.

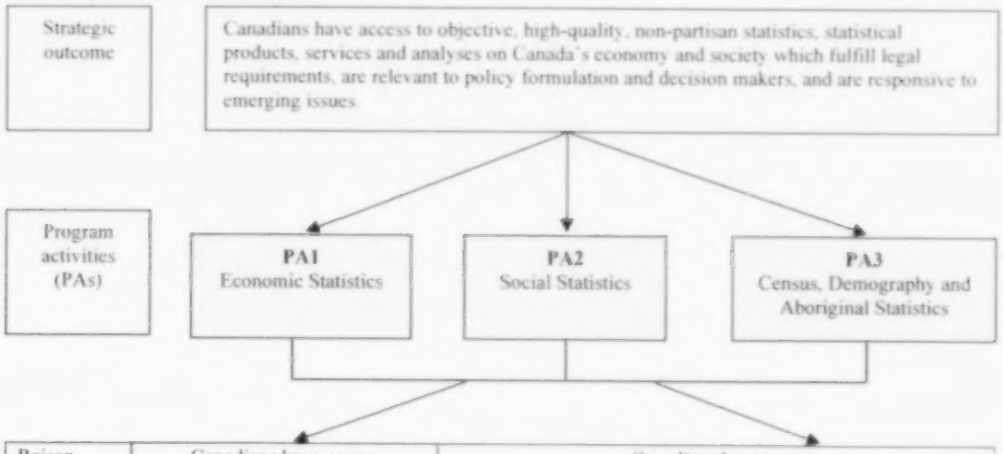
Strategic Outcome and Program Activity Architecture

Statistics Canada's strategic outcome is for Canadians to have access to objective, high-quality, non-partisan statistics, statistical products, services and analyses on Canada's economy and society which fulfill legal requirements, are relevant to policy formulation and decision makers, and are responsive to emerging issues.

In order to meet this strategic outcome, Statistics Canada has identified two expected results. The first expected result focuses on access to statistical information by Canadians. The second expected result focuses on ensuring trust in the information provided. Key factors to ensure that the statistical information produced by Statistics Canada can be trusted are relevance and data quality. In addition, the extent to which Statistics Canada is able to achieve its strategic outcome depends extensively on its ability to optimize its management and operations through organizational efficiency.

The strategic outcome and expected results, as well as the benchmarks, targets and indicators used in this report to measure the extent to which Statistics Canada is making meaningful progress, are described in Figure 1.

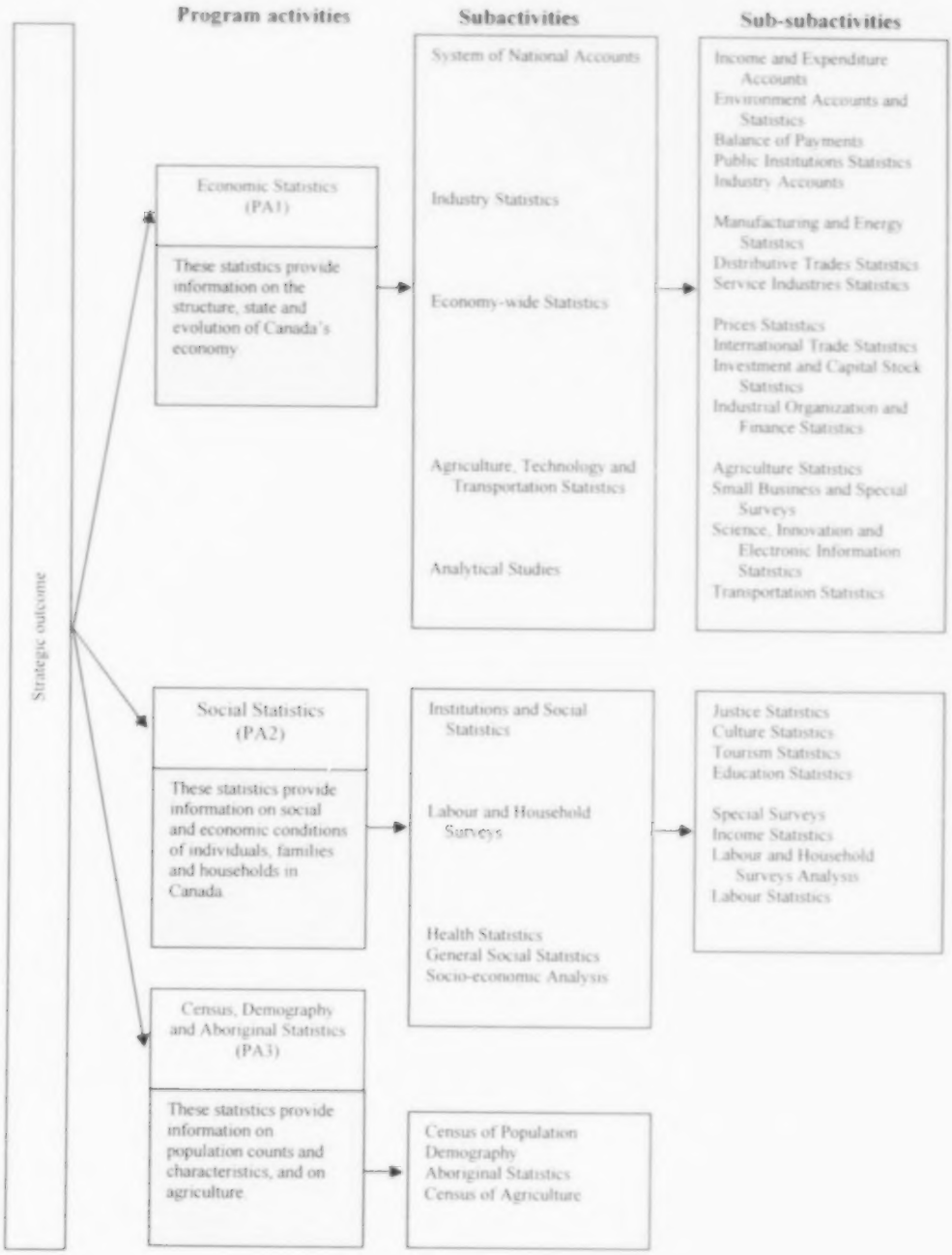
Figure 1 Strategic Outcome, Expected Results and Indicators


Strategic outcome
Canadians have access to objective, high-quality, non-partisan statistics, statistical products, services and analyses on Canada's economy and society which fulfill legal requirements, are relevant to policy formulation and decision makers, and are responsive to emerging issues.
Program activities (PAs)
PA1
Economic Statistics
PA2
Social Statistics
PA3
Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics

Raison d'être	Canadians have access to official statistics	Canadians have trust in the official statistics	
Expected results	Statistics produced by Statistics Canada are available through a wide range of easily accessible media formats and venues	Canadians are aware of the availability of these statistics and of their high quality, and of the professionalism and non-partisanship of Statistics Canada	
Indicators[1]	**Access** • Number of visits to the website • Number of page views of electronic publications • Annual percentage increase in the number of page views of electronic publications • Number of print publications sold • Client satisfaction with price to access data, retrieval process and convenience of output formats	**Relevance** • Number of media citations • Number of references in Federal Budgets • Number of data series downloaded from the online database (CANSIM) • Annual percentage increase in the number of data series downloaded from the online database (CANSIM) • Client satisfaction with Statistics Canada's ability to meet their needs • 2006 Census of Population Dissemination Program Revenue	**Data quality** • Percentage of major statistical outputs released as planned • Percentage of major statistical outputs whose sampling accuracy is within set objectives • Percentage of reloads • Net census undercoverage • Census response rates
	Organizational efficiency • Rating on Management Accountability Framework assessment • Use of administrative data in lieu of questionnaires • Survey response burden per Canadian business establishment • Cost per dwelling to conduct the Census of Population		

1 Not all indicators are available for all program activities.

Figure 2 Components of the Program Activity Architecture



1.2 Performance Summary

Statistics Canada's statistical program is funded through direct parliamentary appropriations and cost-recovery activities. In recent years, Statistics Canada's 'respendable' cost-recovery revenues—revenues Statistics Canada is authorized to spend on the activity that generated them—have added more than $100 million to its total resources. A large portion of these respendable revenues is from federal departments to fund specific statistical projects.

Table 1 Financial Resources, 2008/2009[1] ($ thousands)

Planned spending	Total authorities	Actual spending
451,884	540,665	497,361

1. Totals may differ within and between tables because of rounding. Amounts shown are net of respendable revenue.

Table 2 Human Resources, 2008/2009 (full-time equivalents)

Planned	Actual	Difference
5,196	5,652	456

Table 3 Performance Summary

Strategic outcome: Canadians have access to objective, high-quality, non-partisan statistics, statistical products, services and analyses on Canada's economy and society which fulfill legal requirements, are relevant to policy formulation and decision makers and are responsive to emerging issues.

Indicators of access	Targets/benchmark	2008/2009 performance summary
• Number of visits to the Statistics Canada website	• Annual increase in visits exceeds 5%, which is five times the annual population growth rate	• Met – Visits to the website increased 14.4%
• Client satisfaction with price to access data	• Rating of 4 on a scale of 5	• Not met – Client satisfaction rating was 3.6 for Economic Statistics and 3.4 for Social Statistics
Indicators of relevance		
• Number of data series downloaded from the online database (CANSIM)	• Annual increase in downloaded series exceeds 5%, which is five times the annual population growth rate	• Met – Downloaded series increased 31.8% for Economic Statistics and 16.9% for Social Statistics
• Client satisfaction with Statistics Canada's ability to meet their needs	• Rating of 4 on a scale of 5	• Mostly met – Client satisfaction rating was 3.9 for Economic Statistics and 4.0 for Social Statistics
• Number of references in Federal Budgets	• Several	• Met – There were 19 references to Statistics Canada data
Indicator of quality		
• Percentage of statistical outputs that meet set levels of sampling accuracy	• 95% of major statistical outputs meet set levels of sampling accuracy	• Met – 95.5% for Economic Statistics and 99.1% for Social Statistics
Indicator of organizational efficiency		
• Rating on 21 areas of management, as defined in the federal Management Accountability Framework	• Rank among the best in comparison with other departments of similar size	Met – Statistics Canada ranked second in overall results in comparison with 15 federal departments of similar size

Summary of achievements: Statistics Canada made considerable progress in achieving its strategic outcome, as evidenced by the following:

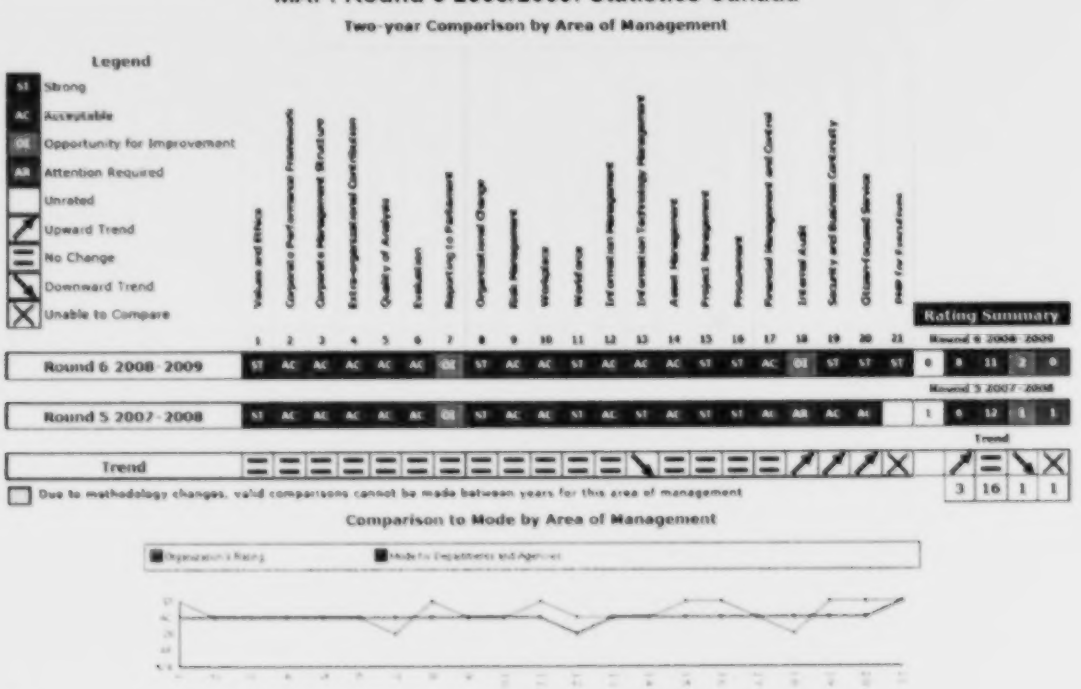
- Access to statistics has improved. Enhancements to Statistics Canada's website and its content have contributed to a total of 17.5 million visits in 2008/2009, an increase of 14.4% over the previous year. Encouraging user self-service to data on the website is a key component of Statistics Canada's dissemination strategy. In addition, 9,220 media citations in newspapers as well as on national radio and television networks and online media services facilitated broad public access to data. However, charging for data continues to be unpopular and is viewed as a barrier to access.
- Information produced by Statistics Canada continues to be very relevant and widely used. Users downloaded 27.2 million data series from Statistics Canada's online database (CANSIM) in 2008/2009, up significantly (by 4.7 million) from the previous year. However, clients indicate that their information needs are only mostly met as there remain gaps in the information available to meet emerging data needs in specific sectors of the statistical program.
- The quality of statistical outputs was maintained as the high standard for sampling accuracy continues to be met and even exceeded for major economic and social data outputs.
- Initiatives associated with departmental priorities have contributed to making progress in addressing data gaps and improving data relevance and quality in support of the revised Equalization Formula, the Services Price Indexes, the Consumer Price Index, and for health, justice and Aboriginal people, including off-reserve Aboriginal populations.
- Management Accountability Framework results for 2008/2009 indicate that Statistics Canada ranked second overall in comparison with 15 federal departments of comparable size on operational and management efficiency.

Program activity	Expected results	2008/2009[1]			Alignment to Government of Canada outcomes
		Planned spending	Total authorities	Actual spending	
		$ thousands			
Economic Statistics	1. Statistics produced by Statistics Canada are available through a wide range of easily accessible media formats and venues.[2] 2. Canadians are aware of the availability of these statistics and of their high quality, and of the professionalism and non-partisanship of Statistics Canada.[3]	209,502	248,927	234,397	Government Affairs
Social Statistics		147,702	179,336	161,177	Government Affairs
Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics		94,680	112,402	101,787	Government Affairs
Total		**451,884**	**540,665**	**497,361**	

1. Totals may differ within and between tables because of rounding. Amounts shown are net of respendable revenue.
2. Expected result 1 focuses on access to statistical information by Canadians.
3. Expected result 2 contributes to ensuring trust in the information provided by Statistics Canada.

Table 4 Indicators of Organizational Efficiency

The Management Accountability Framework (MAF), an annual evaluation of departments conducted by the Treasury Board Secretariat, measures 21 areas of management. This independent evaluation is an indicator of the efficiency of an organization's modern management practices. Overall, Statistics Canada has obtained solid evaluation results in each of the evaluation rounds.



Performance results

The 2008/2009 MAF Round 6 results indicate that the management efficiency of Statistics Canada compares well with other federal departments and continues to improve. Highlights of the assessment include the following:

- Eight of the 21 areas of management were rated 'strong.'
- Assessment ratings improved in three areas of management in Round 6 over Round 5.
- Statistics Canada rated second in overall results in comparison with 15 federal departments of comparable size.

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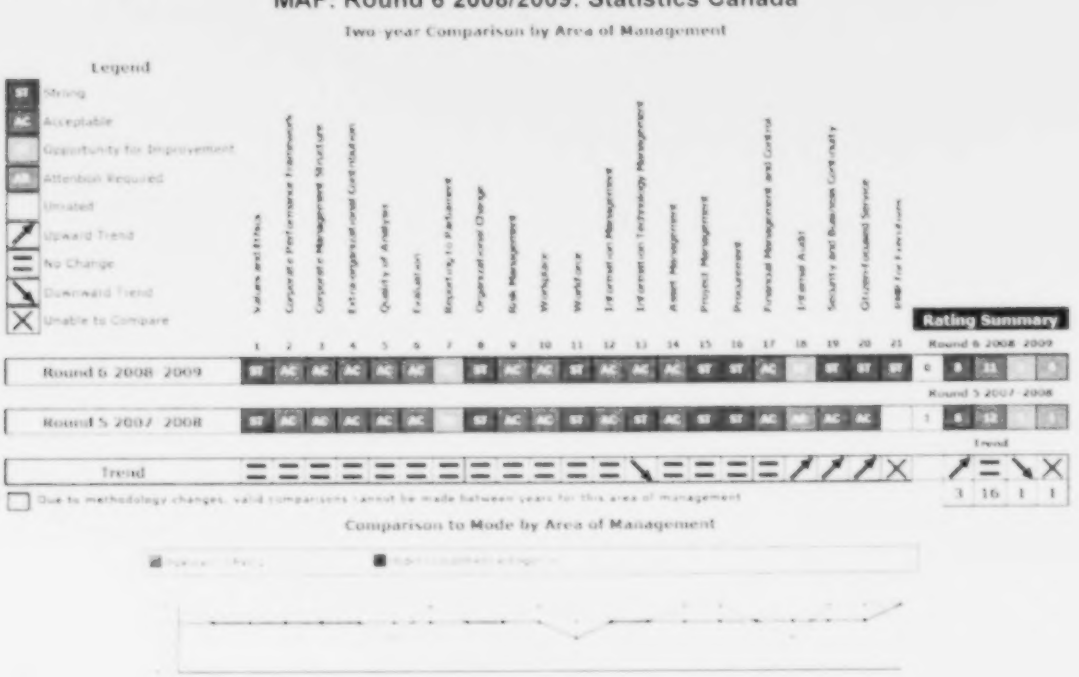

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Contribution of Priorities to Strategic Outcome

In 2008/2009, specific initiatives to make improvements to statistical programs and to enhance the efficiency and management of internal services and operations were identified as priorities. Most of these initiatives were aimed at improving data **access**, timeliness and relevance for policy makers in the areas of the environment, health and justice, all current government priorities, as well as in support of fiscal transfers to provinces under a new Equalization Formula. Also, 2008/2009 was the first year of new investment for the 2011 Census of Population and Census of Agriculture. The relevance of the national statistical program was also enhanced by new investments, mostly on a cost-recovery basis, in Aboriginal statistics.

Other program priorities addressed **relevance** and **quality** issues, an overriding concern for Statistics Canada as the credibility and usefulness of its output depends on the actual and perceived quality of the statistics it produces. To this end, new investments were made to strengthen the Consumer Price Index, a key indicator of inflation, and also to extend the coverage of producer price indexes in service industries to improve the measurement of real output and productivity in the Canadian economy.

Initiatives to enhance the **organizational efficiency** and management of internal services and operations focused on the modernization and integration of data collection systems, strategies and business rules, strengthening the financial management function, including controls and audit capacity, and in official languages training.

Table 5 Departmental Priorities as Described in the *2008/2009 Report on Plans and Priorities*

Operational priorities	Type	Performance status	Link to program activity	Contribution to the strategic outcome
Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators • Published by Environment Canada with data and statistical expertise provided by Statistics Canada, the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI) included results from the 2007 Households and the Environment Survey and the 2007 Agricultural Water Use Survey. Collection of data was also done on Drinking Water Treatment Plants and Industrial Water Use, to be released in 2009. • Obtained one-year Federal Budget funding to extend CESI to 2009/2010.	Previously committed	Met	Economic Statistics	Relevance and quality

Operational priorities	Type	Performance status	Link to program activity	Contribution to the strategic outcome
Statistics supporting the revised Equalization Formula • Statistics Canada has embarked on data initiatives in three areas to support the new Equalization Formula: collection of property tax revenue data from provincial/territorial centralized administrative sources; production of population estimates at the municipality (census subdivision) level; and capturing and processing data collected on property values from municipalities. All of these initiatives are on track to deliver data on December 1, 2010.	Previously committed	Met	Economic Statistics	Relevance
Services Price Indexes • Five new indexes are in production and will be released once their timeliness reaches an acceptable level. Six additional indexes are at various stages of entering production.	Ongoing	Met	Economic Statistics	Relevance
Strengthening the Consumer Price Index • Improvements to methods, processes and systems were completed and a permanent research and development unit was put in place to update concepts and methods and enhance analysis.	Previously committed	Met	Economic Statistics	Quality
Health Statistics Program • The Canadian Health Measures Survey collection was completed in March 2009. Preliminary results showed the effectiveness of government programs to reduce lead in various products.	Ongoing	Met	Social Statistics	Relevance
• Continuous collection for the Canadian Community Health Survey resulted in more frequent and timely data available for governments and local health authorities.				Quality and access
• Several provinces agreed to share detailed health data to increase analysis that will provide new information on the use of the health system.				Relevance and access

Operational priorities	Type	Performance status	Link to program activity	Contribution to the strategic outcome
Justice Statistics Program • Implementing the Integrated Correctional Services Survey has modernized survey processing, increased automation, improved data quality, and facilitated the integration of legacy aggregate survey data and new microdata. The new survey strategy improves the availability and quality of data in the corrections sector. Work on the survey production system will continue through 2010/2011.	New initiative	Met	Social Statistics	Quality and access
2006 and 2011 Census of Population • Remaining major releases from the 2006 Census were completed. • User consultations and testing were completed for 2011 Census content and design. The planning and development of the systems and processes phase were completed for the 2011 Census.	Previously committed	Met	Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics	Relevance and access
2006 and 2011 Census of Agriculture • All remaining products from the 2006 Census of Agriculture were released. Preparations for the 2011 Census are proceeding according to plan.	Previously committed	Met	Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics	Relevance and access
Archiving census records • Microfilming of the 1991 and 1996 Census was completed, and microfilm-mastering was completed for the 1951, 1956 and 1961 Census.	Previously committed	Met	Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics	Access
Aboriginal Peoples Survey • Results were released from the off-reserve 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey. These data provide decision makers much-needed indicators of Aboriginal socio-economic well-being to monitor the performance of Aboriginal policies and programs. • A new strategy was developed to fill key data gaps for on-reserve Aboriginal populations by conducting on-reserve surveys to meet the federal policy needs.	Previously committed	Met	Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics	Relevance and quality

Management priorities	Type	Performance status	Link to program activity	Contribution to the strategic outcome
Collection Modernization Initiative • To achieve a multimode, multisite collection infrastructure for an integrated system for managing collection, the Survey Master Control System (SMCS) was designed, developed and built for implementation in fall 2009. The SMCS will integrate existing legacy applications and systems, and will facilitate active management (including real-time operational reports and tools), continuity planning, workload levelling and the integration of modes and operational processes. • New methodologies, tools, corporate services and frameworks are being used to accelerate the systems development process for all new collection systems. There has been extensive, specialized training of operational staff by the developers and technical staff, and continuous knowledge transfer and learning for all areas, including clients.	Previously committed	Met	Internal services	Organizational efficiency
Strengthening the financial management function • Internal financial management frameworks and policies were updated to address the changes required by the Treasury Board's Financial Policy Suite Renewal Initiative. Statistics Canada will continue to respond to new Treasury Board requirements. • Additional resources were dedicated to address the expanded external reporting associated with strengthened accountability and oversight. • Significant progress has been made regarding the Audited Financial Statement Initiative. Key internal controls have been assessed and measures implemented to ensure the quality of the organization's processes and controls. Additional work on this file will be undertaken in 2009/2010.	Previously committed	Met	Internal services	Organizational efficiency

Management priorities	Type	Performance status	Link to program activity	Contribution to the strategic outcome
Official Languages Training Program • All non-imperative appointments were closely monitored and appropriate actions were taken to extend the exemption periods according to learning plans where warranted. • Statistics Canada manages its own on-site language training program to ensure more effective training of appointees to bilingual positions, and careful planning, co-ordination and monitoring of its full-time and part-time training programs. This provided significant cost avoidance in the overall costs associated with language training.	Ongoing	Met	Internal services	Organizational efficiency

Risk Analysis

Users of Statistics Canada's data want **access** to a **trusted** source. Naturally, Statistics Canada's corporate risk framework focuses on risks to both these elements. Trust is based on providing data that Canadians need (relevance) and that are representative of the universe being captured (quality).

Access

There are two aspects of the **access** element: access to publicly available data; and access, for statistical and research use, to confidential microdata files in a manner that fully preserves confidentiality of all Statistics Canada data.

There are two risks with access to publicly available data. The first relates to users not being aware of Statistics Canada's data holdings, despite its wide array of dissemination products and its flagship *Daily* publication. The challenge here is simply the massive amount of available information and how best to disseminate it. Statistics Canada is in the process of revamping its website, its most important tool for dissemination, having restructured over the past year its *Daily* release to make it more informative and user-friendly.

The second risk relates to Statistics Canada's data not being used at all—or not enough—by many potential users, given the cost of data use. Statistics Canada has been made aware by users that their number one complaint is that, unlike statistical agencies in other developed countries, it charges for its data.

In contrast to these challenges for the use of publicly available data, the issue with microdata is to ensure their confidentiality. Statistics Canada's experiment in establishing Research Data Centres has been a huge success in this regard, but users feel this approach does not go far enough. Statistics Canada is consulting with users and Canadian businesses to find a way to enhance access while at the same time ensuring confidentiality.

Relevance

Relevance refers to Statistics Canada's ability to produce data that are most needed by Canadians and their governments. With any given budget, only the data considered most relevant would be produced, rather than all useful data.

The risk is that the relevance of data automatically diminishes over time. This is natural since there is a constant evolution in the world we live in. Businesses die, new ones emerge. Old issues become less relevant, new ones arise. Globalization is changing the nature of international business and migration. Individuals move. Some old neighbourhoods become less populated, new ones develop. Unless data change with the world—something that requires a proactive approach—their relevance deteriorates.

However, experience has demonstrated that it is extremely difficult to stop or scale down components of the existing statistical programs. As a result, significant data gaps emerge.

Statistics Canada has now established a mechanism of annual dialogues with user communities and key federal departments to try reallocating its resources to enhance relevance. The risk is that such efforts may only be able to meet the challenge modestly.

Quality

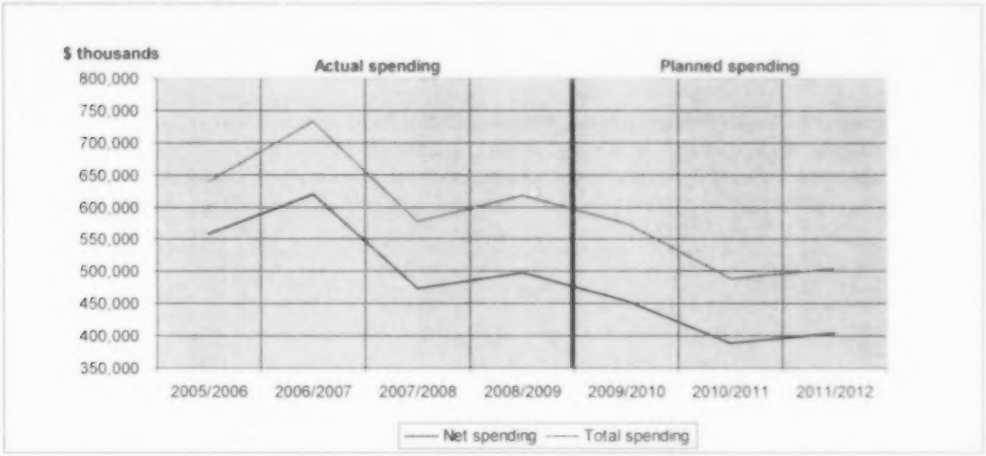
Most of Statistics Canada data are based on samples of the population. The key element of quality refers to how representative the samples are. As with relevance, the risk is that the quality of data deteriorates automatically in the absence of a proactive approach. As an example, the increasing use of cell phones, rather than land lines, is making it increasingly difficult to get hold of respondents. Other elements of quality include timeliness, coherence and interpretability of data.

Statistics Canada must constantly be vigilant in ensuring the maintenance of quality, and is in the process of developing overall summary indicators of its various data to have a better perspective on quality developments.

Expenditure Profile

The figure below shows the seven-year trend of Statistics Canada's total spending and spending net of respendable revenue. The first year, 2005/2006, marks the year immediately prior to the previous census year, while the last year, 2011/2012 will be the next census year.

Figure 3 Spending Trend



Note: Total spending includes respendable cost-recovery revenues. Net spending is equivalent to total corporate expenditures less expenditures related to cost-recovery programs.

As shown above, spending peaked in 2006/2007, when the 2006 Census of Population and Census of Agriculture were conducted, and fell in 2007/2008 as these activities wound down. Funding also decreased because of the Strategic Program Review and the 2007 efficiency savings. The sunsetting of several small initiatives also contributed. Despite these reductions, spending for 2008/2009 increased slightly, mainly because of collective agreement settlements and the associated payments to employee benefit plans. Funding for the Canadian Health Measures Survey and the 2011 Census of Agriculture accounted for the rest of the increase.

Funding has not been secured beyond 2009/2010 for the 2011 Census of Population; however, the rise in funding in 2011/2012 is largely due to preparation for the 2011 Census of Agriculture. When full funding for the 2011 Census of Population has been secured, Statistics Canada expects spending in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 to reach magnitudes similar to the equivalent point in the previous census cycle.

Variances by Source

The table below provides a more detailed breakdown of Statistics Canada's spending for the most recent fiscal years.

Table 6 Total Spending, Respendable Revenue and Net Spending, by Program Activity

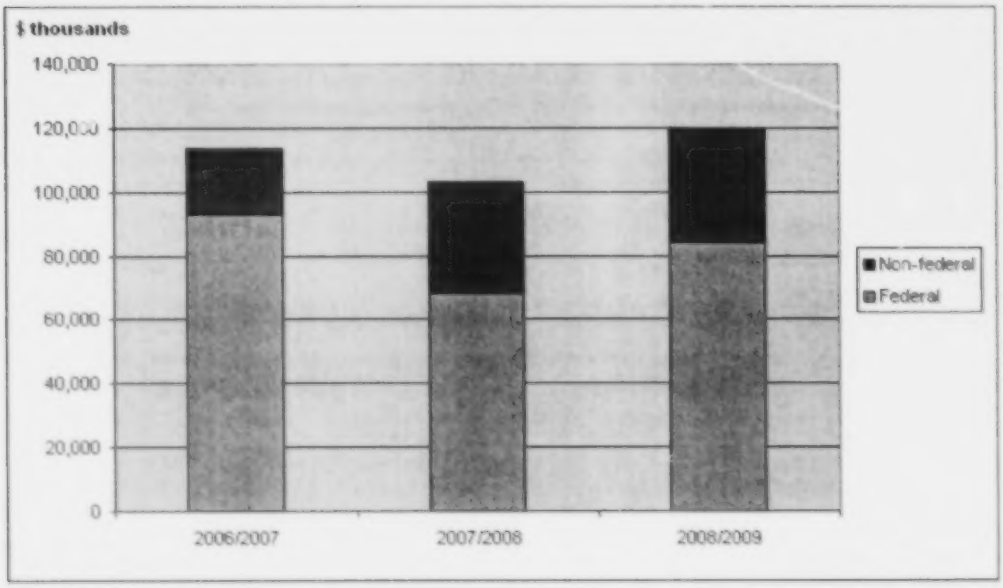
Program activity	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009[1]			
	Actual spending		Main estimates	Planned spending	Total authorities	Actual spending
	$ thousands					
Economic Statistics						
Net spending	194,871	224,467	214,435	209,502	248,927	234,397
Add respendable revenue	20,974	19,617	25,471	25,471	25,471	22,653
Total spending	**215,845**	**244,084**	**239,906**	**234,973**	**274,398**	**257,050**
Social Statistics						
Net spending	136,807	158,417	153,363	147,702	179,336	161,177
Add respendable revenue	56,257	57,767	77,541	77,541	77,541	73,363
Total spending	**193,064**	**216,184**	**230,904**	**225,243**	**256,877**	**234,540**
Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics						
Net spending	287,842	91,147	94,944	94,680	112,402	101,787
Add respendable revenue	36,551	25,771	26,988	26,988	26,988	23,827
Total spending	**324,393**	**116,918**	**121,932**	**121,668**	**139,390**	**125,614**
Total Statistics Canada						
Net spending	619,520	474,031	462,742	451,884	540,665	497,361
Add respendable revenue	113,782	103,155	130,000	130,000	130,000	119,843
Total spending	**733,302**	**577,186**	**592,742**	**581,884**	**670,665**	**617,204**

1. Totals may differ within and between tables because of rounding.

Respendable revenue adds more than $100 million per year to Statistics Canada's budget, allowing for the production of a wide variety of statistics used by other federal departments to effectively run their programs, as well as provincial governments, private companies and various other entities.

Statistics Canada relies heavily on other government departments to provide this much-needed source of funding, as Figure 4 demonstrates.

Figure 4 Respendable Revenues, by Source



Voted and Statutory Items

Table 7 illustrates the way in which Parliament approved Statistics Canada's resources and shows the changes in resources derived from supplementary estimates and other authorities, as well as how funds were spent.

Table 7 Voted and Statutory Items

Voted (number) or statutory (S) item	Truncated vote or statutory wording	2008/2009[1]			
		Main estimates	Planned spending	Total authorities	Actual spending
		$ thousands			
95	Operating expenditures	398,872	388,014	468,259	424,955
S	Contributions to employee benefit plans	63,870	63,870	72,406	72,406
Total		**462,742**	**451,884**	**540,665**	**497,361**

1. Totals may differ within and between tables because of rounding. Amounts shown are net of respendable revenue.

A significant portion of the difference between planned and actual spending is due to collective agreement settlements within the fiscal year. In-year approvals of funding for the Canadian Health Measures Survey and the 2011 Census of Agriculture also increased spending authority.

Strategic Outcome: Canadians have access to objective, high-quality, non-partisan statistics, statistical products, services and analyses on Canada's economy and society which fulfill legal requirements, are relevant to policy formulation and decision makers and are responsive to emerging issues.

2.1 Program Activity 1: Economic Statistics

Table 8 Financial and Human Resources, Economic Statistics

2008/2009 Financial resources[1]			2008/2009 Human resources		
Planned spending	Total authorities	Actual spending	Planned	Actual	Difference
$ thousands			full-time equivalents		
209,502	248,927	234,397	2,469	2,631	162

1. Totals may differ within and between tables because of rounding. Amounts shown are net of respendable revenue.

Overview

The Economic Statistics Program seeks to provide Canadians with a comprehensive, integrated set of measures of the structure, state and evolution of Canada's economy. With necessarily limited resources, this program must be continually adjusted to ensure it is responding to the highest-priority information needs of public and private decision makers. To support Canada's engagement in international policy making, the program must respect international standards to permit intercountry comparison and analysis as well as development of global measures of economic performance.

To fulfill their purpose, statistics produced under this program must be of high quality and must accurately depict the performance of Canada's economy. They must also be timely, internally coherent and accessible.

The program must also be efficient, in terms of the resources consumed in the production of the various measures and in terms of the burden that the program imposes on businesses, farmers and other Canadians responding to its surveys.

Benefits for Canadians

An effective, well-developed economic statistics system is a prerequisite for Canada's recognition as a developed country and an essential underpinning of its participation in international institutions such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. International co-ordination of economic policy, as well as effective trade negotiations, depends on statistical information.

Beginning with the *Constitution Act* of 1867, much Canadian legislation at the federal and provincial level has relied on statistical information for its operation. Equalization payments to provinces and indexation of social benefits and tax brackets are important examples of legislated uses of economic statistics. In the private sector, many contracts and collective agreements are similarly dependent on economic statistics.

The current economic climate illustrates well the dependence of macro-economic fiscal and monetary policy on economic statistics. Equally important is a similar dependence on economic statistics of industrial and labour market policies, regional economic policy, policies designed to promote innovation and policies designed to attract and retain foreign investment in Canada.

Private businesses, like governments, depend on economic statistics for their decisions on such things as mergers and acquisitions, investments and opening and closing locations. Timely and reliable statistics remove uncertainty about the economic environment and improve the efficiency of private decision making.

For Canadians, economic statistics provide a score card against which to measure their governments, to engage in policy debate and to hold governments to account. An effective economic statistics system is an essential ingredient of a vibrant, modern democracy.

Performance Analysis

Expected Result 1: Access to Statistics

	Year	Performance rating
Statistics produced by Statistics Canada are available through a wide range of easily accessible media formats and venues.	2008/2009	Met
	2007/2008	Met

Table 9 Indicators of Access for Economic Statistics

Indicator	Current benchmark/ target	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	Rating
Number of page views of electronic publications ('000)	Annual increase exceeds 5%, which is five times the annual population growth rate.	827	1,072	1,669	2,209	2,989	Met
Annual percentage increase in the number of page views of electronic publications (%)		...	29.6	55.7	32.4	35.3	
Number of print publications sold (number)	Continual decline	6,586	5,562	4,856	5,630	4,349	Met
Client satisfaction with price to access data	4 on a scale of 5	...	...	...	3.8	3.6	Not met
Client satisfaction with ease of retrieval process	4 on a scale of 5	...	...	...	3.9	3.9	Mostly met
Client satisfaction with convenience of output formats	4 on a scale of 5	...	...	...	4.0	4.0	Met

... not applicable

Definitions:

Number of page views of electronic publications: This refers to the number of web pages viewed during visitor sessions on the Statistics Canada website.

Number of print publications sold: This refers to the number of print copies for which a price was charged. Statistics Canada has moved to free dissemination of electronic versions of publications to encourage broader access.

Client satisfaction: These data are derived from the client satisfaction surveys conducted by the Economic Statistics program activity. The surveys use measures that are consistent with the common measurement tool in use across the federal government.

Performance results: The Economic Statistics program activity substantially exceeded its target growth rate for electronic page views by clients. In accordance with Statistics Canada's strategy, there was a corresponding shift away from print publications. Overall, clients expressed satisfaction with the convenience of output formats. There was some dissatisfaction with respect to price, which continues to be a barrier to access.

Expected Result 2: Trust in Statistics

	Year	Performance rating
Canadians are aware of the availability of these statistics and of their high quality, and of the professionalism and non-partisanship of Statistics Canada.	2008/2009	Met
	2007/2008	Met

Key factors to ensure that the statistical information produced by Statistics Canada can be trusted are **relevance** and **data quality**, which include **international comparisons**.

Table 10 Indicators of Relevance for Economic Statistics

Indicator	Current benchmark/ target	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	Rating
Number of data series downloaded from the online database (CANSIM) ('000)	Annual increase exceeds 5%, which is five times the annual population growth rate.	3,372	5,176	8,445	8,535	11,251	Met
Annual percentage increase in the number of data series downloaded from the online database (CANSIM) (%)		...	53.5	63.2	1.1	31.8	
Client satisfaction with Statistics Canada's ability to meet their needs	4 on a scale of 5	...	...	...	3.9	3.9	Mostly met

... not applicable

Definitions:

Data series downloaded from the online database: This refers to data series downloaded by external users from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's online database.

Client satisfaction: These data are derived from the client satisfaction surveys conducted by the Economic Statistics program activity. The surveys use measures that are consistent with the common measurement tool in use across the federal government.

Performance results: The Economic Statistics program activity saw very strong growth in the number of tables downloaded from Statistics Canada's online database (CANSIM). Table downloads require deliberate action on the part of clients, thereby demonstrating the relevance of these data. Some clients indicated that the data did not entirely meet their needs.

Table 11 Indicators of Data Quality for Economic Statistics

Indicator	Current target	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	Rating
	%						
Percentage of major statistical outputs released as planned	100	100	100	100	100	100	Met
Percentage of major statistical outputs whose sampling accuracy is within set objectives	95.0	...	...	95.6	96.5	95.5	Met
Percentage of reloads	Less than 2.5	...	...	...	2.7	1.8	Met

... not applicable

Definitions:

Major statistical outputs released as planned: Each year Statistics Canada publishes the planned release dates for major statistical outputs for the coming year on its website. These outputs and their release dates can be accessed at http://www.statcan.gc.ca/release-diffusion/index-eng.htm.

Major statistical outputs whose sampling accuracy is within set objectives: Most surveys are based on statistical sampling. Sampling is an important means of achieving timely and cost-effective results. At the same time, estimates based on sampling can be expected to vary from sample to sample, and to differ from those that would result from a complete census. Sampling accuracy objectives are set on a survey-by-survey basis.

Reloads: This refers to outputs that require correction after release. In 2008, Statistics Canada began an ongoing process of monitoring the quality of its data releases to reduce the risk of errors found after official release.

Performance results: All major statistical outputs from the Economic Statistics program activity were released on time, adhering to the pre-established release schedule, and in accordance with accuracy targets.

International Comparison of Canadian Economic Indicators

Management of Canada's macro-economy through monetary and fiscal policies is the responsibility of the federal government. The Bank of Canada, the Department of Finance Canada and international organizations, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Monetary Fund, expect that the national statistical office will produce a comprehensive and timely set of economic indicators to guide macro-economic policy and will do so in general compliance with international standards.

Statistics Canada is internationally recognized for the production of a comprehensive, high-quality and timely set of economic indicators. A May 2009 report by the OECD Statistics Directorate listed 24 categories of statistical measures that member countries are expected to maintain and report. Canada was reported as fully compliant in 21 categories, Australia in 22, the United Kingdom in 20 and the United States in 23. Canada's compliance declined in the 2009 report because of the cancellation of the Business Conditions Survey, as a result of budget reductions.

The following table presents information derived from the International Monetary Fund website on the periodicity and timeliness of National Accounts data.

Table 12 International Comparisons of the Periodicity and Timeliness of Data Release, National Accounts, G7 Countries

G7 country	Benchmark	Periodicity			Timeliness		
		SDDS	Result	Rating	SDDS	Result	Rating
Canada	Meet SDDS requirements	Quarterly	Quarterly	Met	1 quarter	60 days	Met
France		Quarterly	Quarterly	Met	1 quarter	50 days	Met
Germany		Quarterly	Quarterly	Met	1 quarter	45 days	Met
Italy		Quarterly	Quarterly	Met	1 quarter	10 weeks	Met
Japan		Quarterly	Quarterly	Met	1 quarter	6 weeks	Met
United Kingdom		Quarterly	Quarterly	Met	1 quarter	1 quarter	Met
United States		Quarterly	Quarterly	Met	1 quarter	31 days	Met

SDDS: Special Data Dissemination Standard.

Definitions:

Periodicity: This refers to frequency of data compilation.

Timeliness: This refers to the lag between the end of the reference period and the dissemination of data.

Source: This table was derived from information available on the website of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/sddshome/. The IMF has established the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) as one of its surveillance standards. The objective of the SDDS is to enhance the data transparency of member countries, to promote development of sound statistical systems and to facilitate access to capital markets. Canada is a signatory to the SDDS, and an annual report on its performance with respect to this standard is available on the IMF website at http://dsbb.imf.org/vgn/images/AnnualReports/2008/CAN_SDDS_AR2008.PDF.

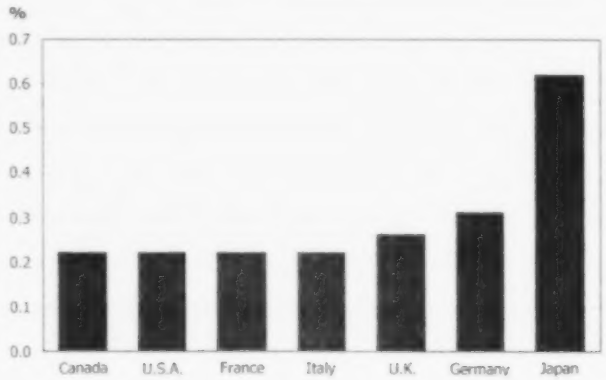
Performance results: For measurement and dissemination of gross domestic product (GDP) data, Canada meets all of the standards set by the IMF. In fact, according to the annual report for 2008 on observance of the SDDS, "the quality, coverage, periodicity and timeliness of Canada's economic data are considered to be excellent both in the context of the Article IV consultation and for purposes of ongoing surveillance."

Timeliness is measured as the lag between the end of the reference period and the dissemination of the earliest measures of GDP. Although Canada meets the IMF standard—it releases 60 days after the end of the reference period, 30 days ahead of the IMF limit—it appears to lag behind other G7 countries. This is due to the fact that Canada releases GDP and the whole National Accounts database at once, providing users with a timely estimate of GDP and, at the same time, helping users understand the overall context. Many other countries, such as the United States, put out early or 'flash' estimates of GDP (the headline variable) and not the associated database. Most other G7 countries release the comprehensive database with a lag of 75 to 90 days from the end of the reference period.

Revisions to economic indicators are a normal consequence of the statistical compilation process. The first publication of quarterly real GDP based on income and expenditure is released approximately 60 days after the reference period and provides a timely source of information about the economy. These initial estimates are based on data available at the time of the release; however, this information will, at times, be incomplete. The initial estimate is revised or changed in value as increasingly complete source data becomes available. It is important that those initial estimates be reliable or close approximations of the final estimate.

The following chart illustrates the average revision to quarterly real GDP growth rate for Canada and other G7 countries, comparing the initial estimate to the latest available.

Figure 5 Average Revision, Real Gross Domestic Product Quarterly Growth Rate, G7 Countries: 1995-2007



Definitions:

Real gross domestic product: This refers to a gross domestic product that has been adjusted for inflation.

Quarterly growth rate: This refers to the quarter-to-quarter growth rate.

Average revision: This refers to the average of the absolute revisions to real GDP growth rate over the period.

Performance results: Canada has the lowest revision rate of the G7 countries. However, there is a trade-off between timeliness and accuracy as measured in the average revisions of the GDP growth rate. Canadian users are often consulted on their views on these trade-offs and are usually satisfied with the status quo.

Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Main Economic Indicators, Original Release Data and Revisions Database.

Organizational Efficiency

Table 13 Use of Administrative Data in Lieu of Questionnaires

Indicator	Current target	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	Rating
Number of business surveys using tax/administrative data (number)	Continual increase	24	30	41	42	43	Met
Percentage of business surveys using tax/administrative data (%)		12	14	19	19	20	Met
Contacts avoided because of tax replaced units (number)		654,586	692,573	720,932	939,815	946,344	Met

Definition:

Use of tax and administrative data: This refers to the use by Statistics Canada of data from the Canada Revenue Agency and other administrative sources as an alternative to obtaining data directly from respondents. Sometimes referred to as survey data replacement, this reduces the number of questionnaires going to respondents as well as the associated response burden.

Performance results: The Economic Statistics program activity continued to experience growth in the use of administrative data in lieu of questionnaires. As a result, the number of respondent contacts that were avoided approach 1 million in 2008/2009.

Table 14 Average Response Burden Hours per Canadian Business Establishment

Indicator	Current target	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	Rating
Index of response burden hours (1991=100)	60 or less	61	62	62	63	63	Not met

Definition:

Response burden hours: The estimate of response burden hours is calculated annually using the frequency of each survey, the average time to complete the questionnaires and the number of surveyed respondents. Dividing by the estimated number of Canadian businesses gives average burden per establishment. The average is indexed, with the year 1991 set to 100. The calculation excludes the quinquennial Census of Agriculture.

Performance results: Response burden has remained virtually unchanged within the Economic Statistics program activity over the last few years. The expansion of the program through the use of administrative data has been achieved with no significant impact on respondent burden.

Lessons Learned

Maintaining quality of statistical outputs requires constant attention. To ensure that all its program components continue to meet the high data-quality standards expected by Canadians, Statistics Canada has undertaken a number of initiatives, including an extensive quality review process. To date, nearly two dozen programs have undergone review and the process has become an ongoing part of Statistics Canada's activities. This has increased Statistics Canada's confidence in the robustness and accuracy of its statistical outputs.

Regular interaction with stakeholders at all levels is critically important to aligning our programs with highest priority information needs. Statistics Canada cannot determine in isolation what information is required.

During the course of the year, it became apparent that even the most knowledgeable stakeholders are not aware of all of the information held by Statistics Canada that is available to meet their information needs. This is particularly true when those needs evolve, as in a period of economic downturn. Statistics Canada must do more to improve the effectiveness of its Internet site, and to build knowledge and statistical capacity in the user communities.

Policy development today requires access to statistical analysis based on anonymized personal and business microdata. Statistics Canada's current practices in this area are restrictive and could potentially create a movement away from the national statistical agency as a provider of critical information. New technologies being explored by Statistics Canada that allow secure, remote access to individual record data may largely address the problem. Legal frameworks in the *Statistics Act* may also need to be revisited. At the same time, business survey respondents must continue to have confidence that Statistics Canada will protect their information from misuse.

Businesses value the factual information published by Statistics Canada. In the current economic climate, it is even more critical that Statistics Canada release timely economic statistics and minimize burden on business survey respondents, so it can maintain high levels of collaboration into the future.

2.2 Program Activity 2: Social Statistics

Table 15 Financial and Human Resources, Social Statistics

2008/2009 Financial resources[1]			2008/2009 Human resources		
Planned spending	Total authorities	Actual spending	Planned	Actual	Difference
$ thousands			full-time equivalents		
147,702	179,336	161,177	1,689	1,934	245

1. Totals may differ within and between tables because of rounding. Amounts shown are net of respendable revenue.

Overview

This program provides information to decision makers and Canadians in general on the social and economic characteristics of individuals, families and households in Canada, and on the major factors that can contribute to their well-being. It includes the production of key indicators related to labour market, earnings, pensions, income and expenditures, health, justice and education, as well as information on factors influencing social outcomes. A number of indicators also target segments of the Canadian population, such as children, youth, immigrants, elderly people, and people with activity limitations. Those indicators are used by policy makers to make informed decisions on social issues.

This program also provides information and analysis on the facilities, agencies and systems that are publicly funded to meet the socio-economic and physical needs of Canadians, and on the outcomes of the services that they provide. It encompasses the justice, health and education systems as well as cultural institutions and industries, in terms of the nature and extent of their services and operations, the characteristics of the individual Canadians and families whom they serve and their impacts on Canadian society.

Benefits for Canadians

Timely and accurate information on a broad range of social issues provides decision makers at all levels of government, non-government organizations and academics with essential information for developing policies, managing programs, conducting research, and making decisions that affect individuals, families and households in Canada.

Performance Analysis

Expected Result 1: Access to Statistics

	Year	Performance rating
Statistics produced by Statistics Canada are available through a wide range of easily accessible media formats and venues.	2008/2009	Met
	2007/2008	Met

Table 16 Indicators of Access for Social Statistics

Indicator	Current benchmark/target	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	Rating
Number of page views of electronic publications ('000)	Annual increase exceeds 5%, which is five times the annual population growth rate.	1,851	2,417	3,003	3,210	3,962	Met
Annual percentage increase in the number of page views of electronic publications (%)		...	30.6	24.2	6.9	23.4	
Number of print publications sold (number)	Continuing decline	7,430	6,277	6,470	7,816	4,604	Met
Client satisfaction with price to access data	4 on a scale of 5	...	...	...	3.5	3.4	Not met
Client satisfaction with ease of retrieval process	4 on a scale of 5	...	...	...	4.1	3.8	Mostly met
Client satisfaction with convenience of output formats	4 on a scale of 5	...	...	...	4.2	4.1	Met

... not applicable

Definitions:

Number of page views of electronic publications: This refers to the number of web pages viewed during visitor sessions on the Statistics Canada website.

Number of print publications sold: This refers to the number of print copies for which a price was charged. Statistics Canada has moved to free dissemination of electronic versions of publications to encourage broader access.

Client satisfaction: These data are derived from the client satisfaction surveys conducted by the Social Statistics program activity. The surveys use measures that are consistent with the common measurement tool in use across the federal government.

Performance results: The Social Statistics program activity substantially exceeded its target growth rate for electronic page views by clients. In accordance with Statistics Canada's strategy, there was a corresponding shift away from print publications. Overall, clients expressed satisfaction with the convenience of output formats. There was some dissatisfaction with respect to price, which continues to be a barrier to access.

Expected Result 2: Trust in Statistics

	Year	Performance rating
Canadians are aware of the availability of these statistics and of their high quality, and of the professionalism and non-partisanship of Statistics Canada.	2008/2009	Met
	2007/2008	Met

Key factors to ensure that the statistical information produced by Statistics Canada can be trusted are **relevance** and **data quality**, which include **international comparisons**.

Table 17 Indicators of Relevance for Social Statistics

Indicator	Current benchmark/target	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	Rating
Number of data series downloaded from the online database (CANSIM) ('000)	Annual increase exceeds 5%, which is five times the annual population growth rate.	6,213	8,202	11,879	12,114	14,159	Met
Annual percentage increase in the number of data series downloaded from the online database (CANSIM) (%)		...	32.0	44.8	2.0	16.9	
Client satisfaction with Statistics Canada's ability to meet their needs	4 on a scale of 5	...	...	...	4.1	4.0	Met

... not applicable

Definitions:

Data series downloaded from the online database: This refers to data series downloaded by external users from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's online database.

Client satisfaction: These data are derived from the client satisfaction surveys conducted by the Social Statistics program activity. The surveys use measures that are consistent with the common measurement tool in use across the federal government.

Performance results: The Social Statistics program activity saw strong growth in the number of tables downloaded from Statistics Canada's online database (CANSIM). Table downloads require deliberate action on the part of clients, thereby demonstrating the relevance of these data.

Table 18 Indicators of Data Quality for Social Statistics

Indicator	Current target	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	Rating
	%						
Percentage of major statistical outputs released as planned	100	100	100	100	100	100	Met
Percentage of major statistical outputs whose sampling accuracy is within set objectives	95.0	...	...	98.7	98.6	99.1	Met
Percentage of reloads	Less than 2.5	...	...	...	4.1	2.2	Met

... not applicable

Definitions:

Major statistical outputs released as planned: Each year Statistics Canada publishes the planned release dates for major statistical outputs for the coming year on its website. These outputs and their release dates can be accessed at http://www.statcan.gc.ca/release-diffusion/index-eng.htm.

Major statistical outputs whose sampling accuracy is within set objectives: Most surveys are based on statistical sampling. Sampling is an important means of achieving timely and cost-effective results. At the same time, estimates based on sampling can be expected to vary from sample to sample, and to differ from those that would result from a complete census. Sampling accuracy objectives are set on a survey-by-survey basis.

Reloads: This refers to outputs that require correction after release. In 2008, Statistics Canada began an ongoing process of monitoring the quality of its data releases to reduce the risk of errors found after official release.

Performance results: All major statistical outputs from the Social Statistics program activity were released on time, adhering to the pre-established release schedule, and in accordance with accuracy targets.

International Comparison of Unemployment Data

The following table presents information on the periodicity and timeliness of unemployment data.

Table 19 International Comparisons of the Periodicity and Timeliness of Data Release, Unemployment, G7 Countries

G7 country	Benchmark	Periodicity			Timeliness		
		SDDS	Result	Rating	SDDS	Result	Rating
Canada	Meet SDDS requirements	Quarterly	Monthly	Met	1 quarter	2 weeks	Met
France		Quarterly	Quarterly	Met	1 quarter	Not later than 10 weeks	Met
Germany		Quarterly	Monthly	Met	1 quarter	1 month	Met
Italy		Quarterly	Quarterly	Met	1 quarter	Not later than 1 quarter	Met
Japan		Quarterly	Monthly	Met	1 quarter	1 month	Met
United Kingdom		Quarterly	Monthly	Met	1 quarter	5 weeks	Met
United States		Quarterly	Monthly	Met	1 quarter	3 weeks—not later than 1 month	Met

SDDS: Special Data Dissemination Standard.

Definitions:

Periodicity: This refers to frequency of data compilation.

Timeliness: This refers to the lag between the end of the reference period and the dissemination of data.

Source: This table was derived from information available on the website of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/sddshome/. The IMF has established the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) as one of its surveillance standards. The objective of the SDDS is to enhance the data transparency of member countries, to promote development of sound statistical systems and to facilitate access to capital markets. Canada is a signatory to the SDDS, and an annual report on its performance with respect to this standard is available on the IMF website at http://dsbb.imf.org/vgn/images/AnnualReports/2008/CAN_SDDS_AR2008.PDF.

Performance results: Canada met or exceeded all the SDDS quarterly periodicity and timeliness requirements.

Organizational Efficiency

In 2008/2009, the Social Statistics program activity undertook a number of initiatives to enhance organizational efficiency. Among the most significant of these were the improvements made in implementing continuous data collection for the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). The change in collection strategy relies on a robust infrastructure allowing the collection of data on a variety of health issues using the same system and processes. The use of this efficient CCHS infrastructure will result in cost-avoidance by significantly reducing the development of separate systems and processes to address important health-related data needs.

Lessons Learned

An ongoing threat to the quality of Statistics Canada data is the increasing difficulty in collecting the data. The active lifestyles of Canadian families make it harder to contact them at home. As well, more households have only cell phones, or use Internet phones. All of this makes it more costly to maintain response rates. Without further efforts in survey collection, response rates and quality will decline. Statistics Canada is streamlining its collection functions to generate efficiencies in processes and systems that can be re-invested in maintaining response rates and data quality.

Statistics Canada needs to do a better job of communicating to users data that are available on its website and organizing these data in a user-friendly and easy-to-access manner.

Statistics Canada has to spend resources to standardize and harmonize a number of concepts and definitions and modernize its statistical infrastructure to ensure that representative samples can be drawn in the most efficient manner.

International comparisons in a number of social areas have led to revisions in international guidelines, particularly around the measurement of household income and wealth.

2.3 Program Activity 3: Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics

Table 20 Financial and Human Resources, Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics

2008/2009 Financial resources[1]			2008/2009 Human resources		
Planned spending	Total authorities	Actual spending	Planned	Actual	Difference
$ thousands			full-time equivalents		
94,680	112,402	101,787	1,038	1,087	49

1. Totals may differ within and between tables because of rounding. Amounts shown are net of respendable revenue.

Overview

This program provides statistical information on the Canadian population, its demographic characteristics and conditions, and their changes over time through a number of statistical activities. This program also provides statistical information from the quinquennial Census of Population. The census provides benchmark information on the structure of the Canadian population and its demographic, social and economic conditions. It provides needed detailed information, which cannot be generated through sample surveys, on subgroups of the population and for small geographic areas. Population counts and estimates are required to determine electoral boundaries, the distribution of federal transfer payments, and the transfer and allocation of funds among regional and municipal governments, school boards and other local agencies within provinces. This program also provides information on the socio-economic conditions and well-being of Aboriginal peoples.

Also, every five years, the Census of Agriculture provides data on the following: number and type of farms; farm operators; business operating arrangements; land and land management practices; capital investments; farm vehicles, machinery and equipment; and hired agricultural labour.

Benefits for Canadians

Census of Population

Decennial census data are constitutionally required for determining the number and boundaries of federal electoral districts.

Further, the demographic, social and economic data that the census collects on the Canadian population are needed to meet the priority information needs of government and the private sector. The census provides unique and essential data for the following:

- learning about populations that are key targets of government policy (e.g., recent immigrants; visible minorities; people with disabilities; Aboriginal peoples, including First Nations communities; ethnic, religious and language minorities; seniors and youth)
- supporting provincial/territorial and local government planning and program delivery, as it is the only source of detailed small-area information to monitor progress on issues such as rural population decline, infrastructure-related investments by all levels of government and the changing makeup of neighbourhoods
- designing surveys that provide estimates of monthly employment, family incomes and expenditures, and other topics of concern to government,

industry, labour and the general public
- analysing social and economic issues, such as skills shortage and integration of immigrants
- reviewing the effectiveness of current legislation.

Demography Statistics

During the intercensal period, population estimates are required to meet various legislative requirements, such as the Canada Health Transfer, the Canada Social Transfer, the Wait Times Reduction Transfer, the Equalization Formula and the Territorial Formula Financing, which together amounted to over $60 billion in 2009/2010. Population estimates are derived from Census of Population numbers adjusted for net census undercoverage and from various components of population changes—such as births, deaths, and international and internal migrations—derived from administrative sources. Population estimates are produced annually and quarterly by province and territory. Annual population estimates by age and sex and at subprovincial levels (i.e., census metropolitan areas, census divisions and economic regions) are also produced. Demographic projections are derived every five years, following the census, using various assumptions on population fertility, mortality and migration to define potential growth scenarios.

Aboriginal Statistics

The 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey complements census data, providing a snapshot of the socio-economic, cultural and health conditions of Métis, Inuit, and First Nations people living off-reserve. Survey results were released in 2008/2009, providing governments and Aboriginal organizations with indicators to monitor change in educational outcomes, health status, employment and proficiency in Aboriginal languages.

Results were also released from the 2006 Aboriginal Children's Survey in 2008/2009, complementing the data collected by the census. This survey was developed to address a data gap and provides decision makers with much-needed indicators of the early childhood development and well-being of Aboriginal children.

Significant data gaps exist, however, for the on-reserve Aboriginal population, and Statistics Canada is working with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in its efforts to develop strategies to fill these gaps.

Census of Agriculture

Direct federal and provincial payments to the agriculture sector in recent years have been approximately $5 billion annually. The Census of Agriculture is critical for the development and evaluation of the underlying programs and policies related to food supply and safety, the environment, renewal, science and innovation, and business risk management. It contributes both directly with data and indirectly with its support of the annual agricultural statistics program. The Census of Agriculture provides a comprehensive source of data that is the foundation for the analysis of the agriculture and agri-food industry for federal and provincial departments alike.

The comprehensive data provided by the Census of Agriculture are critical for the following:
- analysing important changes occurring in the agriculture and agri-food industries
- conducting studies for smaller geographic areas that are essential for environmental (e.g., watershed) and community-based (e.g., township or rural municipality) analysis
- developing, implementing and evaluating agricultural policies and programs

- making production, marketing and investment decisions
- providing the strong sampling frame to optimize the design of Statistics Canada's annual and subannual agricultural surveys. This reduces respondent burden by allowing fewer farmers to be contacted while still providing accurate statistics on the industry.

Users of Census of Agriculture data go beyond federal, provincial and municipal governments. Local-level organizations and agencies (e.g., conservation authorities), associations that directly represent farmers (e.g., Canadian Federation of Agriculture and National Farmers Union), academics (e.g., sociologists, economists and agronomists), specialized agriculture media and the general media all use Census of Agriculture data.

Performance Analysis

Expected Result 1: Access to Statistics

	Year	Performance rating
Statistics produced by Statistics Canada are available through a wide range of easily accessible media formats and venues.	2008/2009	Met
	2007/2008	Met

Table 21 Indicators of Access for Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics

Indicator	Current benchmark/ target	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	Rating
Number of page views of electronic publications ('000)	Annual increase exceeds 5%, which is five times the annual population growth rate.	206	288	344	512	631	Met
Annual percentage increase in the number of page views of electronic publications (%)		...	40.5	19.4	48.5	23.3	
Number of print publications sold (number)	Continuing decline	2,327	1,892	2,208	2,037	1,726	

... not applicable

Definitions:

Number of page views of electronic publications: This refers to the number of web pages viewed during visitor sessions on the Statistics Canada website.

Number of print publications sold: This refers to the number of print copies for which a price was charged. Statistics Canada has moved to free dissemination of electronic versions of publications to encourage broader access.

Performance results: The Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics program activity exceeded its target growth rate for electronic page views by clients. In accordance with Statistics Canada's strategy, there was a corresponding shift away from print publications.

Expected Result 2: Trust in Statistics

	Year	Performance rating
Canadians are aware of the availability of these statistics and of their high quality, and of the professionalism and non-partisanship of Statistics Canada.	2008/2009	Met
	2007/2008	Met

Key factors to ensure that the statistical information produced by Statistics Canada can be trusted are **relevance** and **data quality**, which include **international comparisons**.

Table 22 Indicators of Relevance for Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics

Indicator	Current benchmark/ target	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	Rating
Number of data series downloaded from CANSIM, the online database ('000)	Annual increase exceeds 5%, which is five times the annual population growth rate.	1,419	1,862	2,184	1,783	1,861	Not met
Annual percentage increase (decrease) in the number of data series downloaded from the online database (CANSIM) (%)		...	31.2	17.3	(17.9)	3.8	
2006 Census of Population Dissemination Program revenue ($ millions)	Planned revenue	...	...	...	2.4	4.1	Met
	Actual revenue[1]	...	...	...	3.7	5.6	

... not applicable

1. Five of the eight major census releases resulted in an increase in customer requests for custom tabulations. This accounts for a major portion of the revenue increase in both 2007/2008 and 2008/2009.

Definition:

Data series downloaded from the online database: This refers to data series downloaded by external users from Statistics Canada's online database (CANSIM).

Performance results: The Census of Population, currently preparing for the 2011 Census, experienced only modest growth in the number of tables downloaded from its online database. This is typical of the level of demand at this point in the census cycle.

Revenues associated with the Census of Population Dissemination Program were higher than planned as a result of the strong demand by users for custom tabulations that meet their individual and business information needs. Similarly, revenues generated as a result of sales through a network of secondary distributors of census data were also very strong—another indication of the relevance of the data.

Table 23 Census of Population, Indicators of Data Quality, Including International Comparisons

Indicator / International comparison	2001	2006
Net census undercoverage[1]		
Canada (%)	2.99	2.80
United States (2000 census) (%)	2.31	...
Canada's position	Slightly worse	...
Response rates		
Canada – planned (%)	98.0	98.0
Canada – actual (%)	98.3	96.5
Rating	Met	Not met
Census outputs released as planned		
Percentage of census outputs released as per the pre-announced schedule (%)	100	100
Rating	Met	Met

... not applicable

1. The target is that this be as low as possible.

Definitions:

Net census undercoverage: This refers to the number of people missed less the number of people counted more than once. Following each census since the 1961 Census, the reverse record check (RRC) has been carried out to measure census population undercoverage. The RRC estimates the number of people missed in the census. This estimate is combined with the estimate from the census overcoverage study of the number of people enumerated more than once to calculate net undercoverage.

Response rates: The accuracy of the data disseminated by Statistics Canada is directly related to the accuracy of the data provided by the respondents to its surveys or censuses. It follows that an important indication of accuracy is the percentage of respondents asked to provide data who actually do so. Generally, the higher the response rate, the greater the accuracy of the census results.

Census outputs released as planned: This refers to the planned release dates for Census of Population data that Statistics Canada publishes on its website. These outputs and their release dates can be accessed at http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/rt-td/index-eng.cfm.

Performance results: For the Census of Population, response rates are lower than in 2001, and are lower than planned. This is consistent with the change in response generally in survey-taking activities. All census outputs were released on time, adhering to the pre-established release schedule, and net undercoverage has improved since 2001.

Table 24 Census of Agriculture, Indicators of Data Quality, Including International Comparisons

Indicator / International comparison	2001	2006
Net census undercoverage – number of farms		
Canada (%)	5.60	3.40
United States (2002 and 2007 censuses) (%)	17.90	16.24
Canada's position	Better	Better
Net census undercoverage – total farm area		
Canada (%)	1.90	1.30
United States (2002 and 2007 censuses) (%)	2.40	3.33
Canada's position	Better	Better
Response rates		
Canada (%)	98.0	96.0
United States (2002 and 2007 censuses) (%)	88.0	85.0
Canada's position	Better	Better

Definitions:

Net census undercoverage – number of farms: This refers to the number of farms missed by the census less the number of farms counted more than once.

Net census undercoverage – total farm area: This refers to the total farm area missed by the census less the total farm area counted more than once.

Response rates: The accuracy of the data disseminated by Statistics Canada is directly related to the accuracy of the data provided by the respondents to its surveys or censuses. It follows that an important indication of accuracy is the percentage of respondents asked to provide data who actually do so. Generally, the higher the response rate, the greater the accuracy of the census results.

Performance results: Response rates and net undercoverage compared favourably with corresponding measures for the United States.

Organizational Efficiency

Table 25 Cost per Dwelling of Conducting the Census of Population, Including International Comparisons

Indicator / International comparison	2006	2011
	$ Canadian	
Cost per dwelling of conducting the Census of Population		
Canada	45.31	41.78
Australia	41.96[1]	43.24[1]
United States (2010 census)	...	119.15[2]
Canada's position	Worse	Better

... not applicable

1. Converted from Australian dollars on July 27, 2009, at a rate of 1 AUD = 0.8896 CAD, as per Bank of Canada at http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/rates/exchform.html.
2. Converted from U.S. dollars on July 27, 2009, at a rate of 1 USD = 1.0835 CAD, as per Bank of Canada at http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/rates/exchform.html.

Definition:
Cost per dwelling: This refers to the total number of dwellings projected in Canada for the census divided by the total cost estimate.

Performance results: The 2006 Census underwent a significant methodological change that required a one-time investment of $35.4 million. The cost per dwelling including this investment was $45.31. The cost per dwelling in the 2011 Census is $41.78. In comparison to the 2006 Census, this represents a reduction of $3.53 (7.8%) per dwelling or $51.7 million.

2011 Census of Population Compared with 2006 Census of Population

The 2011 Census will capitalize on major changes introduced for the 2006 Census. These include an option for Canadians to respond to the census online, automated editing and data capture technologies and greater centralization of operational activities. For the 2011 Census, Statistics Canada plans to leverage heavily on the approaches and systems developed for the 2006 Census, and pursue a re-use strategy.

In fiscal year 2008/2009, work on the 2011 Census was initiated. The plan, design, development of systems and processes, and integrated testing were completed within pre-established timelines and on budget. Statistics Canada tested key census processes, systems and planning assumptions in the integrated end-to-end Census Test, which was conducted in May 2009.

Lessons Learned

Census of Population

Statistics Canada conducted extensive reviews of the various processes within the Census Program following the 2006 Census of Population.

These reviews were used to identify opportunities for streamlining operations for the 2011 Census. Particular efforts were made toward finding ways to reduce the cost of the census. Statistics Canada will maintain the Internet as a response option for the 2011 Census, and is taking measures to increase its use. This benefits from the one-time investment in 2006 that put the Internet option in place. Coupled with the implementation of several other efficiencies, this represents a reduction of $3.53 per dwelling in 2011, or $51.7 million, compared with 2006.

As part of streamlining processes and operations, new approaches are being developed for 2011. A new collection approach, wave methodology, is expected to increase the Internet uptake as a response option while minimizing overall non-response. This should make further cost reductions possible for future censuses. Many facets of the 2011 Census operations will leverage on Statistics Canada's infrastructure to update the address register, conduct data quality follow-up telephone calls and tabulate census data.

New systems and processes are also being developed to address issues encountered during field collection in 2006, including the following: the new web-based Field Management System to improve communication with field staff and transmit timely management information; new recruitment approaches to reduce risks of severe staff shortages; new training approaches to improve overall quality of field outputs; and a revised pay process to reduce delays in issuing pay to field staff.

Changes are also being implemented to improve data processing and system maintenance. Statistics Canada will act as the prime systems integrator to reduce reliance on external contractors. This is possible because of the experience gained in 2006.

In addition to the changes implemented by the Census of Population on common activities, the Census of Agriculture will move to a full mail-out in 2011. That is, farm operators will receive their questionnaire directly through the mail, rather than having it dropped off by a census enumerator. Further, the Census of Agriculture's activities for all follow-up for non-response and failed edits will be centralized using computer-assisted telephone interviewing.

Demography Statistics

The success of the population estimates program relies heavily on developing and maintaining good relationships with various data providers and researching potential new data sources and methods for population estimates.

During the review period, new series of postcensal and intercensal population estimates were derived and released following the availability of the 2006 net census undercoverage results. These followed an extensive validation exercise in partnership with provincial and territorial focal points. An important demand, which puts pressure on the program, is the need for population projections and estimates of targeted population groups such as visible minorities and Aboriginal groups; or, more broadly, the need to estimate and project the ethnocultural diversity of the Canadian population. This has been and is being met through cost-recovery initiatives with major federal departments. The use of microsimulation techniques in population projections of targeted population groups is key to meeting this demand.

Aboriginal Statistics

The data available for Aboriginal peoples are not timely and are incomplete compared with the data available for the general population in a number of social and economic domains. While the census paints a broad picture, more in-depth data from on-reserve Aboriginal surveys such as the Aboriginal Peoples Survey and the Aboriginal Children's Survey are needed to provide contextual information to understand determinants of change in areas like early childhood development, work, education, health and housing.

For a number of years, Statistics Canada has invested in building ongoing relationships with Aboriginal organizations and communities. Over time, this has led to better coverage of First Nations communities in the census and better coverage of Inuit, Métis and off-reserve First Nations people in the postcensal surveys. This has required investment in specific programs (such as the Aboriginal Statistics Program and the Aboriginal Liaison Officer Program), all of which have meant considerable liaison and capacity-building activities, including training and workshops.

Filling the substantial data gaps that exist for the on-reserve Aboriginal population will require Statistics Canada to continue to work with other federal government departments as well as with the Aboriginal communities and organizations. Statistics Canada is working with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in their data development strategy to address a number of the gaps that currently exist in Aboriginal data.

3.1 Financial Highlights

The financial highlights presented within this DPR are intended to serve as a general overview of Statistics Canada's financial position and operations. Financial statements can be found at http://www.statcan.gc.ca/dpr-rmr/financ-eng.htm.

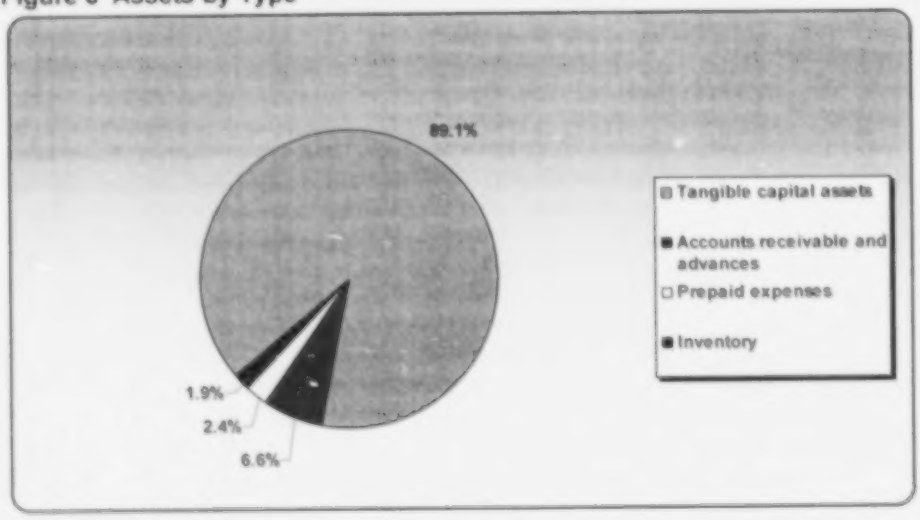
Table 26 Financial Highlights

	% change	2009	2008
	%	$ thousands	
For the year (ended March 31, 2008) **Condensed Statement of Financial Position**			
Assets			
Total assets	21.8	145,703	119,590
Total	21.8	**145,703**	**119,590**
Liabilities			
Total liabilities	25.5	197,226	157,124
Equity			
Total equity	(37.3)	(51,523)	(37,534)
Total	21.8	**145,703**	**119,590**
For the year (ended March 31, 2009) **Condensed Statement of Operations**			
Expenses			
Total expenses	8.6	670,680	617,437
Revenues			
Total revenues	12.5	121,295	107,792
Net cost of operations	7.8	**549,385**	**509,645**

Notes:
The departmental financial statements and associated highlights have been prepared on an accrual accounting basis and, therefore, differ from the figures presented in previous sections, which are based on authorities voted by Parliament on a modified cash basis. Note 3 of the financial statements provides a reconciliation of accrual-to-cash accounting methods.

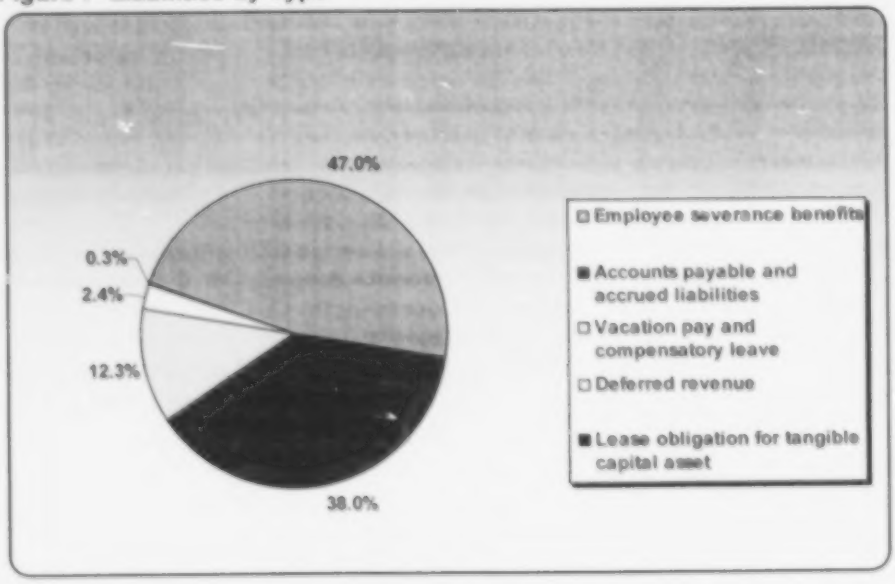
Totals may differ within and between tables because of rounding.

Figure 6 Assets by Type



Total assets were $146 million at the end of 2008/2009, an increase of $26 million (21.8%) over the previous year's total of $120 million. Tangible capital assets, composed mainly of informatics hardware ($24 million), software ($54 million) and software under development ($39 million), represent the largest portion of assets at $130 million or 89.1% of the total. The remaining 10.9% is composed of accounts receivable and advances (6.6%), prepaid expenses (2.4%) and inventory (1.9%).

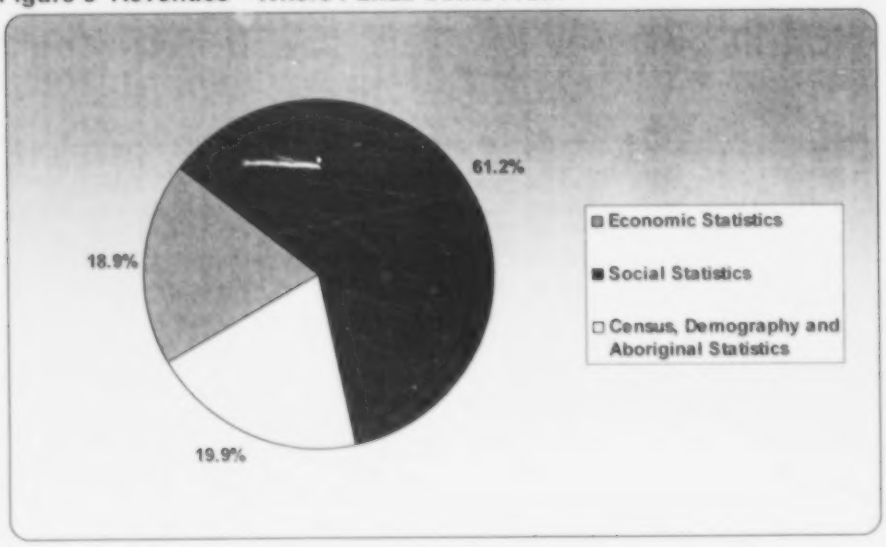
Figure 7 Liabilities by Type



Total liabilities were $197 million at the end of 2008/2009, an increase of $40 million (25.5%) over the previous year's total of $157 million. Employee severance benefits represents the largest

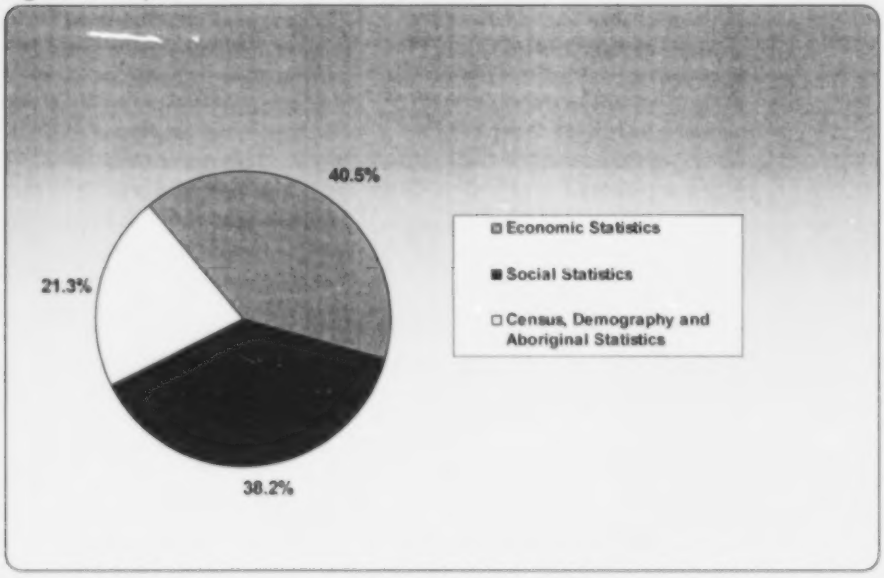
portion of the liabilities at $93 million or 47.0% of the total. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities is the next largest portion at $75 million or 38.0% of the total, and is composed of accrued salaries and wages ($38 million), accounts payable to external parties ($26 million), and accounts payable to other federal government departments and agencies ($11 million).

Figure 8 Revenues—Where Funds Come From



Statistics Canada's total revenues amounted to $121 million for 2008/2009, an increase of 13 million (12.5%) from the previous year's revenue of $108 million. The Social Statistics Program generated $74 million (61.2%) of the total, while the Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics Program and Economic Statistics Program generated $24 million (19.9%) and $23 million (18.9%), respectively.

Figure 9 Expenses—Where Funds Go



Total expenses, which include respendable revenues and services received without charge, were $671 million in 2008/2009, an increase of $54 million (8.6%) from the previous year's expenses of $617 million. The Economic Statistics Program accounts for the largest portion of this at $272 million (40.5%), while the Social Statistics Program and the Census, Demography and Aboriginal Statistics Program accounted for $256 million (38.2%) and $143 million (21.3%), respectively.

3.2 List of Supplementary Information Tables

All electronic supplementary information tables found in the 2008-09 Departmental Performance Report can be found on the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat's website at: ***http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/dpr-rmr/2008-2009/index-eng.asp***.

1. Sources of Respendable and Non-Respendable Revenue

2. User Fees/ External Fees

3. Green Procurement

4. Response to Parliamentary Committees and External Audits

5. Internal Audits and Evaluations